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Next 6 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

India's Attitude on UN Membership for Peiping

New Delhi intends to raise the issue of Chinese Communist membership in the United Nations when the General Assembly meets on 16 September, even though it foresees another defeat. It has sponsored this cause for the past two years and requested inscription of the item on the UNGA agenda last July, before the Chinese forces began shelling the offshore islands on 23 August. India presumably feels it cannot now abandon this stand, especially since it does not believe that Communist forces actually intend to invade the islands.

Nehru on 15 September once more outlined to parliament his long-held view that Taiwan and the offshore islands should become part of Communist China. His government is apparently embarrassed, however, over the fact that the Communists continue to shell Nationalist positions almost daily, while the Nationalists take no strenuous retaliatory action. The Indian UN delegation has been instructed to raise the membership issue only routinely

25X1

New Delhi apparently has no plans for a diplomatic initiative seeking settlement of the Taiwan issue.

India's cautious attitude seems to stem in large part from a recent reappraisal of the long-range capabilities and intentions of the Sino-Soviet bloc. Nehru, particularly, now seems to doubt whether the Communist system can survive without the suppression of individual freedoms--an approach he himself cannot accept. He is also concerned over Chinese activities along India's Himalayan frontier and plans to visit Bhutan later this month.

The first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in New Delhi recently expressed anxiety over the "hardening" of India's attitude toward Communist China.

22X1

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